



HEALTHCARE

SUMMIT + EXPO 2026

Promoting Excellence, Supporting Clinicians

Las Vegas, NV • Aug. 30–Sept. 2, 2026





WELCOME

TO *Fabulous*

LAS VEGAS

NEVADA

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WELCOME

Dear Summit Attendees,

Welcome to Paralyzed Veterans of America's 14th Healthcare Summit + Expo.

As PVA marks 80 years as a relentless ally for veterans with spinal cord injuries and diseases, like MS and ALS, I'm excited to be here with you in Las Vegas. I can't think of a better place to continue advancing the future of SCI/D care while building on a legacy that has transformed so many lives.

Since our founding in 1946, research and innovation have been fundamental to PVA's mission. Our Healthcare Summit reflects that commitment by bringing together the people advancing SCI/D care, from clinicians and researchers to industry leaders and those with lived experience. What started as an ambitious idea has grown into one of the premier educational events in the SCI/D community. That success is only possible because of the dedication of attendees like you, the generosity of our sponsors and exhibitors, and the hard work of our PVA team. Together, we've built a forum where ideas become action, improving lives along the way.

To every healthcare professional joining us, thank you. Your knowledge and commitment make greater independence and a better quality of life possible for thousands of people with SCI/D, like me. Whether you provide care within the Department of Veterans Affairs, a rehabilitation hospital, or a community practice, please know your impact extends far beyond the exam room. Every patient you serve benefits from the knowledge, compassion, and innovation you bring to your work.

Over the next few days, I encourage you to make the most of every opportunity. Attend sessions that challenge your thinking. Explore emerging technologies in our Expo Hall. Most importantly, build relationships that will continue long after this Summit ends. The conversations you have here and the knowledge you take home have the power to improve care for years to come.

As we honor PVA's 80-year legacy, I'm inspired by what this community has achieved and encouraged to see what we accomplish next—together.

SINCERELY,

Robert Thomas, Jr.

National President and Chairman of the Board,
Paralyzed Veterans of America





ABOUT SUMMIT

PVA Healthcare Summit + Expo

For 80 years, Paralyzed Veterans of America has championed specialized, high-quality medical care for veterans living with spinal cord injuries and diseases, like multiple sclerosis (MS) and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), as well as all people with disabilities. PVA's legacy of leadership comes alive each year at the Healthcare Summit + Expo, the nation's premier conference dedicated to advancing care for individuals with SCI, MS, and ALS in one comprehensive event.

The Summit draws together leading professionals from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and private-sector healthcare systems for four days of dynamic learning, collaboration, and innovation. Attendees discover the latest breakthroughs in care, from cutting-edge research to emerging scientific advancements, and leave equipped with new techniques and knowledge to improve patient outcomes.

Renowned for its holistic, team-based approach, PVA's Summit sparks connections across disciplines, inspires transformation in treatment, and moves every aspect of care forward, from daily rehabilitation to the pursuit of cures for paralysis. Since its inception, the event has awarded more than 2,800 scholarships to frontline clinicians and funded over 600 speakers, fueling a vibrant network of professionals dedicated to excellence in care and ongoing education.





SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS

Interdisciplinary Approach

Often individuals with catastrophic injuries or spinal cord-related diseases must manage secondary conditions that accompany paralysis. When care is not a coordinated team approach, those conditions can reduce quality of life and even become life-threatening. Thus, care for individuals with SCI/D requires a holistic approach. Collaboration among a multidisciplinary team of health professionals is critical.

For nearly 15 years, PVA's Healthcare Summit has promoted such an approach by convening physicians, nurses, psychologists, social workers, therapists, researchers, pharmacists, dietitians, and educators to present best practices and evidence-based models, share experiences and challenges with fellow peers, and exchange knowledge that advance SCI/D care.

Network

PVA's Healthcare Summit + Expo encourages learning, advancing science, and building relationships that improve overall patient care. The Summit also offers unmatched opportunities to expand knowledge and provide "take home" practices that will help every attendee immediately integrate care for their patients.

With more than 500 of the world's brightest minds together and dedicated to advancing the care of individuals with SCI/D, virtually every presentation highlights the latest developments in clinical practice, research, and emerging technologies. All attendees are encouraged to build a "lifeline" of resources by accessing their peers' specific areas of expertise and becoming a lifeline for others who share a commitment to optimizing care for the most vulnerable patient population.



DOWNLOAD THE MOBILE APP!

The app is the go-to resource for information about events, speakers, and more.

- Real-time Schedule Updates
- Notifications Throughout the Week
- Interactive Expo Guide and Floor Plan



Download Online via:

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SUMMIT AWARDS

2026 Clinical Excellence Award Recipients



Paralyzed Veterans of America established the Clinical Excellence Awards in 2013 to recognize clinicians for exceptional professional achievement, contributions and advocacy in SCI/D including MS and/or ALS healthcare. We selected six individuals who consistently seek to expand care for those who need it, are regularly accessible and available with compassionate care to their patients, are innovative in developing solutions for patients, and who reach their hand out to those coming behind them, mentoring and developing our next generation of caregivers.

**Marinella Galea, MD**

Chief of Spinal Cord Injury
and Disorders
*James J. Peters Department of
Veterans Affairs Medical Center*

**Liam Kiernan, PT, DPT, NCS, OCS**

Clinical Specialist Physical Therapist
*Spinal Cord Injury and Disorders
Center, Rocky Mountain Regional
Veterans Affairs Medical Center*

**Felicia Skelton, MD, MS**

Physician - SCI Care Line
*Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs
Medical Center*

**Nicholas Wendel, PT, DPT, NCS**

Physical Therapy Clinical Specialist
*Inpatient Spinal Cord Injury Unit,
VA Boston Health Care System*

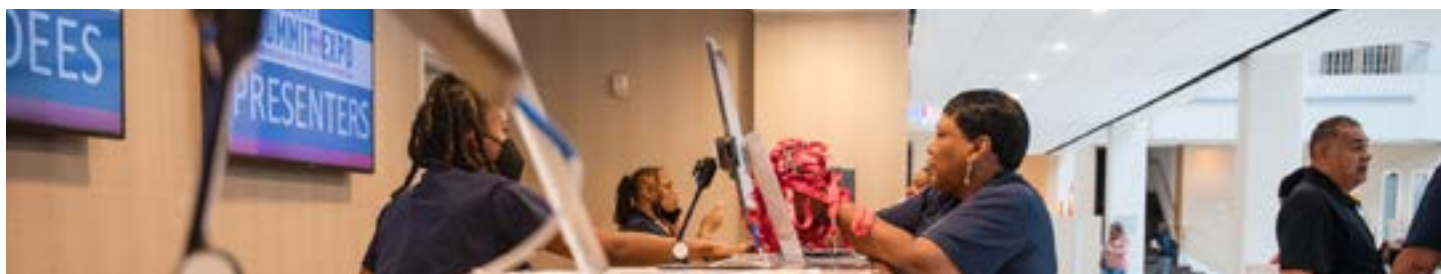
**Beth Whittington, MD**

Neurologist
*Richard L. Roudebush Veterans
Affairs Medical Center*

**Ginger Willoughby, RN,
BSN, MSN, CCM**

Inpatient Nurse Care Coordinator
*Louis Stokes Cleveland Veterans
Affairs Medical Center*

SUMMIT STAFF



Summit Program Committee

- Kenneth Lee, MD
Co-Chair
- Lindsay Perlman, MPH
Co-Chair
- Sarah Brindle, PhD
- April Conway, NP
- Jodie Haselkorn, MD
- Jake Herzog, RN
- Maureen Jennings, DPT
- Bill Lawson
- Ryan Madjos, CRRN
- Kimberley Monden, PhD
- Huned Patwa, MD
- Juliet Pierce, RN
- Jennissa Pressley-Burgin, LCSW-QS
- Deidra Singleton, NP
- Sivashankar Sivakanthan, PhD
- Alicia Sloan, MSW
- Lauryn Wasil, OTR/L, AIT

PVA Summit Task Force

- Lindsay Perlman, MPH
Co-Chair
- Hannah Buchholz, MBA
Co-Chair
- Noel Abizo
- Rachel Cline
- Brad Coleman
- Shakira Douglas
- Jonathan Franklin
- Shyanne Hardy
- Jennifer Hill
- Elisa Lerner
- Jennifer Massey
- Kristina Packard
- Juliet Pierce, RN
- Marisa Ramos
- Brianna Shriner
- Oname Thompson
- Kaitlyn Walker
- Joyce Williams

Conference Registration Desk Hours

Located at the Grand Ballroom Foyer Registration Desk

Sunday, August 30	12:00pm - 7:00pm
Monday, August 31	7:00am - 8:00am 10:00am - 5:00pm
Tuesday, September 1	9:30am - 5:00pm
Wednesday, September 2	10:00am - 2:00pm



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Homer Townsend Keynote

INDRA SANDAL, PhD, MBA



Indra Sandal, PhD, MBA, is a nationally recognized healthcare innovation leader with over 20 years of experience driving transformative initiatives across federal, academic, and private sectors. She currently serves as Chief Innovation Officer and Center Director of the National Center for Transformational Innovation (NC4TI) at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa, FL, where she leads enterprise-wide programs focused on improving access, quality, and outcomes for Veterans through cutting-edge technologies and public-private collaborations.

Dr. Sandal is the architect of several landmark initiatives, including the VA-Uber Health Connect Program, which has provided over 1 million rides to Veterans across 110+ sites, reducing missed appointments and generating more than \$500 million in cost savings. She also founded the Veterans Health Venture Studio, a first-of-its-kind innovation pipeline uniting 94 organizations across 47 states and territories to advance AI-enabled solutions for critical challenges such as suicide prevention, medication safety, and workforce efficiency. Her leadership extends to pioneering efforts in drone-based medical supply delivery and autonomous vehicle mobility programs, in collaboration with Tampa International Airport and City of Tampa, enhancing care access for thousands of Veterans.

Dr. Sandal serves on the American Legion's "Be the One" suicide prevention advisory council and collaborates with leading partners such as Microsoft, MIT Hacking Medicine, and The American Legion to accelerate innovation and address urgent healthcare challenges.

Prior to her current role, Dr. Sandal served as Chief of Innovation at the Tampa VA and Director of Innovation at the Memphis VA Medical Center, where she spearheaded national strategies and elevated the site to Innovators Network status. Her academic career includes serving as Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Utah and research roles at Virginia Tech, where she secured \$9M+ in grants and authored 21 peer-reviewed publications, 17 patents, and multiple book chapters.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Tuesday Keynote

AARON TURNER, MD



Aaron Turner, MD, is the Director of Rehabilitation Psychology at VA Puget Sound and is a Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at the University of Washington.

He serves as the Co-Associate Director of Research for the VA MS Centers of Excellence.

His research interests include intervention to promote health behavior change and self-management in chronic disease, alcohol use, depression, quality of life and cognitive functioning for individuals with amputation as well as other rehabilitation populations.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Wednesday Keynote

JEROME KURENT, MD



Jerome Kurent, MD, received his MD from the University of Cincinnati and completed residencies in Neurology and Internal Medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He completed fellowships in Neurological Infectious Diseases, Neuromuscular Diseases, and Electromyography at the National Institutes of Health followed by Geriatric Medicine at Harvard where he also received an MPH.

Dr. Kurent's interests include a major focus on the multidisciplinary care of persons with ALS, electromyography, Neuropalliative care and bioethics. He is director of the ALS Interdisciplinary Clinic at the Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Professor of Neurology and Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina. Dr. Kurent received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Neuropalliative Care Society and recently served on the National Academies Committee to Make ALS a Livable Disease. Dr. Kurent was selected as a Project on Death in America Faculty Scholar and is also a Mayday Pain and Society fellow. He is currently a member of the ALS Association South Carolina Advisory Board.

SUMMIT SPONSORS

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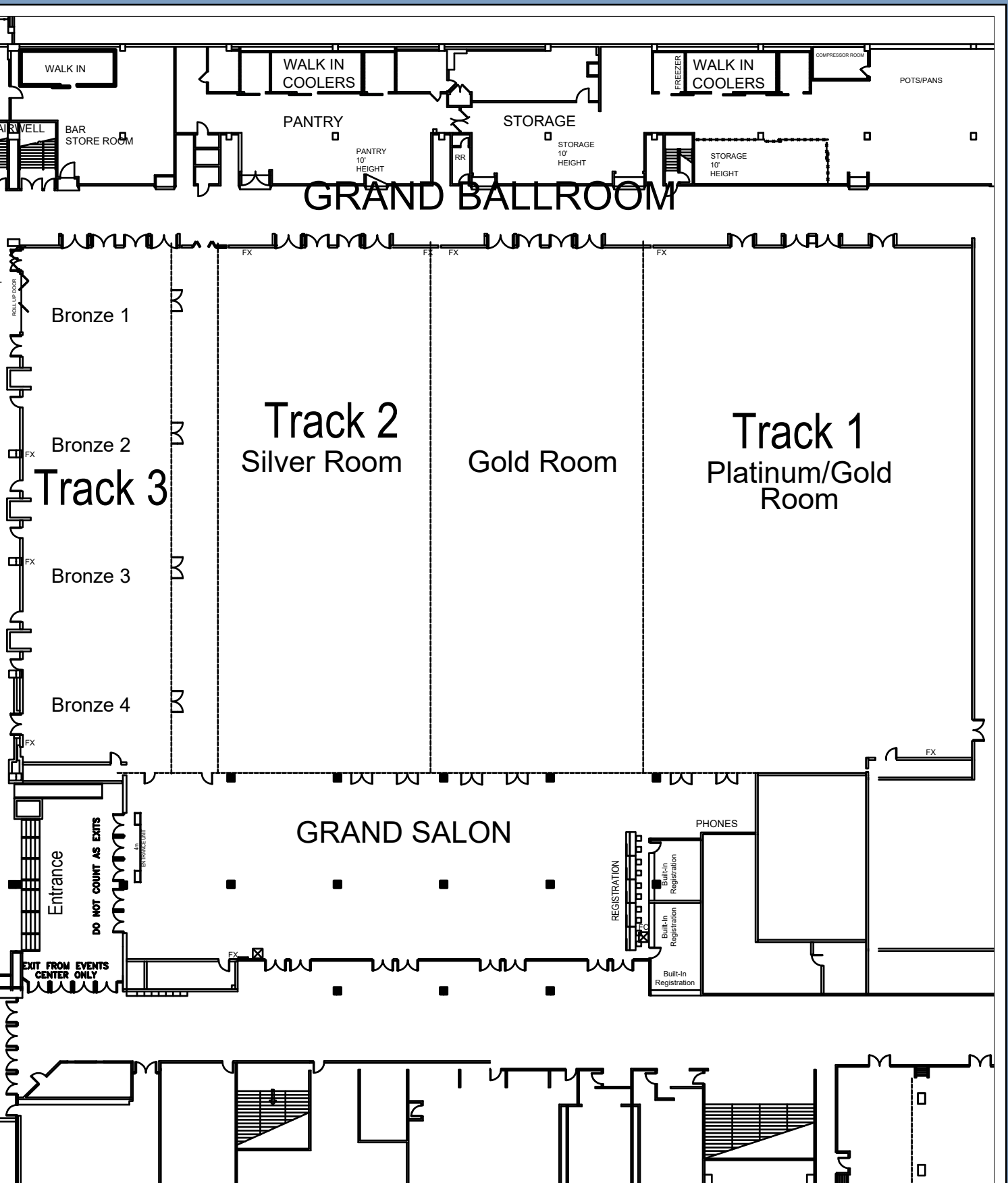


EXPO SCHEDULE



TIME	EVENT
SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026 12:00pm - 7:30pm	
12:00pm - 3:00pm	Exhibitor Check-In
12:00pm - 5:00pm	Exhibitor Setup
5:00pm - 7:30pm	Welcome Reception (Expo Open)
MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2026 10:00am - 6:00pm	
10:00am - 10:30am	Coffee Break (Expo Open)
12:00pm - 1:30pm	Lunch (Expo Open)
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Coffee Break (Expo Open)
5:00pm - 6:00pm	Poster Viewing Cocktail Hour (Expo Open)
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2026 9:30am - 5:00pm	
9:30am - 10:30am	Coffee Break (Expo Open)
12:00pm - 1:30pm	Lunch (Expo Open)
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Coffee Break (Expo Open)
3:30pm - 5:00pm	Exhibitor Move-Out

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EXPO BOOTHS



GOLD SPONSORS

Biogen	122
First Nation Group	101
Maxim Healthcare	107
NMEDA*	119
Onward Medical	206

SILVER SPONSORS

Genentech	300
Novartis	200
Shionogi Inc.	203

SUPPORTING SPONSORS

Permobil	202
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* Also sponsoring VIP Reception

EXHIBITORS

Acera Surgical Inc	618
Advanced Oxygen Therapy Inc. (AOTI)	519
Advanced Platform Technology (APT) Center	602
AltimateMedical	418

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Aurie	403
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EXPO BOOTHS



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SUMMIT AGENDA



SUMMIT AGENDA

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

TIME	PRECONFERENCE INSTITUTE TRACK 2: SILVER BALLROOM	PRECONFERENCE INSTITUTE TRACK 3: BRONZE 1-4	PRECONFERENCE INSTITUTE TRACK 4: PALACE 3-5
12:00pm - 7:00pm	Registration Grand Ballroom Foyer Registration Desk		
1:00pm - 5:00pm	1:00pm-3:00pm (PC-261) Participatory Action Design and Engineering in Motion: Gamified Educational Interventions to Improve Access to Transportation Speakers: Sangmi Park, PhD, OTR Jorge Candiotti, PhD Jason Raad, PhD Moderator: April Conway, NP	1:00pm-3:00pm (PC-263) SCI 101; ALS 101; MS 101: Nuts and Bolts of Understanding and Managing SCI&D from onset to throughout life Speakers: Tommy Yu, MD James Orengo, MD, PhD Elizabeth Silbermann, MD, MCS Moderator: Sivashankar Sivakanthan, PhD	1:00pm-3:00pm(PC-265) In Focus: Capturing A Yearlong Photography Project for Veterans with Spinal Cord Injury and Disorders Speakers: Rachel Szymanski, OTR/L, ATP Dukens Pierre, RT Moderator: Alicia Sloan, MSW
	3:00pm-5:00pm (PC-262) Power Up! Optimizing Manual Wheelchair Performance with Power-Assist and Add-On Technologies Speakers: Rachel Hibbs, PT, DPT, NCS, ATP/SMS Lynn Worobey, PhD, DPT, ATP Juli Harrison, OTD, OTR/L, ATP Moderator: April Conway, NP	3:00pm-5:00pm (PC-264) A Practical Framework for Progressive Strengthening After Spinal Cord Injury Speaker: Abigail Ruppel, PT, DPT, NCS Moderator: Sivashankar Sivakanthan, PhD	3:00pm-5:00pm (PC-266) Implementation and Future of Artificial Intelligence in the Veterans Health Administration Speaker: Glenn Graham, MD, PhD Moderator: Alicia Sloan, MSW
5:00pm - 7:30pm	Welcome Reception Event Center		

SUMMIT AGENDA

MONDAY, AUGUST 31	
TIME	TRACK 1 PLATINUM/GOLD BALLROOM
7:00am - 8:00am	Registration Grand Ballroom Foyer Registration Desk
	Continental Breakfast Grand Ballroom Foyer
8:00am - 8:30am	Opening Remarks Lindsay Perlman, MPH <i>Director of Research and Education, Paralyzed Veterans of America</i> Robert Thomas <i>National President, Paralyzed Veterans of America</i> Carl Blake <i>Chief Executive Officer, Paralyzed Veterans of America</i>
8:30am - 9:00am	Opening Keynote Address Doug Collins <i>United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Department of Veterans Affairs</i>
9:00am - 10:00am	Keynote Address Homer Townsend, Jr. Memorial Lecture From Crisis to Capability: Vision and Action in Modernizing Veteran Care Delivery Indra Sandal, PhD, MBA <i>Chief Innovation Officer and Center Director of the National Center for Transformational Innovation at the VA Tampa Healthcare System</i>
10:00am - 5:00pm	Registration Grand Ballroom Foyer Registration Desk



SUMMIT AGENDA

MONDAY, AUGUST 31

TIME	TRACK 1 PLATINUM/GOLD BALLROOM	TRACK 2 SILVER BALLROOM	TRACK 3 BRONZE 1-4	TRACK 4 PALACE 3-5
10:00am - 10:30am	Coffee Break Event Center			
10:30am - 12:00pm	10:30am-11:15pm (2603) Embodied Healing: Cultivating Whole-Person Care in SCI Medicine Education Speaker: Felicia Skelton, MD, MS Moderator: Sivashankar Sivakanthan, PhD	10:30am-11:15am (2604) Balancing Patient Autonomy and Staff/Caregiver Safety in Safe Patient Handling and Mobility Practices Speakers: Pauline (Tony) Hilton, MSN, FNP, CRRN, CSPHA, FARN Catherine Manlapaz, MSN-Ed, RN Yasemin Zablan, MSN, RN Moderator: Ryan Madjos, CRRN	10:30am-11:15am (2606) Pelvic health for people living with multiple sclerosis: Background, impacts, and current rehabilitation strategies Speakers: Lauren Van Valkenburgh, PT, DPT Valerie Block, PT, DPTSc Moderator: Kimberley Monden	10:30am-12:00pm (2608) ALS Management Mastery: Interdisciplinary Strategies for Complex Cases Speakers: Shane Chanpimol, PT, DPT, NCS Ileana Howard, MD Leah Darling, LCSW Moderator: Maureen Jennings, DPT
		11:15am-12:00pm (2605) Evaluating Accessibility of Residential Substance Use Treatment for People with Spinal Cord Injuries Speaker: Jo Ann Shoup, PhD, LSW, NCC Moderator: Ryan Madjos, CRRN	11:15am-12:00pm (2607) Race as an Independent Predictor of Accelerated Brain Aging and Functional Loss in Multiple Sclerosis Speaker: Anza Memon, MD, FAAN Moderator: Kimberley Monden	
12:00pm - 1:30pm	Lunch & Expo Event Center			
12:00pm - 12:45pm	Sponsor Symposium (12:00pm) Track 3: Bronze 1-4 First Nation Group (see pg 43) • Lunch Provided in the Room			

SUMMIT AGENDA

MONDAY, AUGUST 31

TIME	TRACK 1 PLATINUM/GOLD BALLROOM	TRACK 2 SILVER BALLROOM	TRACK 3 BRONZE 1-4	TRACK 4 PALACE 3-5
12:15pm - 1:00pm	Sponsor Symposium (12:15pm) Track 2: Silver Ballroom Onward Medical (see pg 43) • Lunch Provided in the Room			
	MS (MSCoE) Network of Care Meeting Track 4: Palace 3-5			
1:30pm - 3:00pm	1:30pm-3:00pm (2609) Interdisciplinary Approaches to Women's Health After Spinal Cord Injury: A Panel Discussion Speaker: Nicole Sharf, MA Linda Mona PhD Kristen Cezat, PT, DPT, ATP/SMS, NCS Stephane Philippe-Ratway, MS Moderator: Sarah Brindle, PhD	1:30pm-2:15pm (2610) How do Clinicians Assess Concern About Falling in People Who Use Wheelchairs and Scooters? Speakers: Sahel Moein, MS, MD Laura Rice, MPT, PhD, ATP Moderator: Kenneth Lee, MD	1:30pm-3:00pm (2612) Enhancing Cognitive Wellness in Multiple Sclerosis: Evidence-Based Strategies for Mental Health Providers Speakers: Terry Lee-Wilk, PhD Maira Dux PhD Moderator: Alicia Sloan, MSW	1:30pm-2:15pm (2613) Addressing Fatigue During Eating: Practical Approaches for ALS Mealtime Independence Speaker: Heather Keeton, ATP, CDME Moderator: Huned Patwa, MD
		2:15pm-3:00pm (2611) What Could Go Wrong? Strategic Management of Mobility Related Adverse Events Speaker: Kendra Betz, MSPT, ATP Moderator: Kenneth Lee, MD		2:15pm-3:00pm (2614) Sleep as an Occupation: A Technology-Enabled Framework to Improve Function in ALS and MS Speaker: Malcolm Reed, MS, OTR/L, NIC Moderator: Huned Patwa, MD
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Coffee Break Event Center			

SUMMIT AGENDA

MONDAY, AUGUST 31

TIME	TRACK 1 PLATINUM/GOLD BALLROOM	TRACK 2 SILVER BALLROOM	TRACK 3 BRONZE 1-4	TRACK 4 PALACE 3-5
3:30pm - 5:00pm	3:30pm-4:15pm (2615) Impact of biological sex on the epidemiology, pathophysiology, and outcomes after spinal cord injury Speaker: Julio Furlan, MD, LLB, MBA, MSc, PhD, FRCPC, FAAN Moderator: Jennissa Pressley-Burgin, LCSW-QS	3:30pm-4:15pm (2617) Get Up, Stand Up: Novel Wheeled Mobility Device Impacts Participation and Wellbeing Speakers: Amber Wacek, PT, DPT, ATP Jeffrey Jaramillo, PT, DPT B. Jenny Kiratli, PhD Moderator: Bill Lawson	3:30pm-4:15pm (2619) Overview of Diagnosis and Treatment of Eye Movement Disorders in Multiple Sclerosis Speaker: Alessandro Serra, MD, PhD Moderator: Maureen Jennings, DPT	3:30pm-4:15pm (2621) Voice Preservation in the 21st Century: Current Updates in Augmentative Communication in ALS Speakers: Annette "Nicole" Askren, CScD, CCC-SLP Meghan O'Brien, MS, CCC-SLP Moderator: April Conway, NP
	4:15pm-5:00pm (2616) Increasing Participation in Clinical Trials Among Individuals with Disabilities Speakers: Robbin Clark, RN, MSN-Ed, CCRC Michael Kennelly, MD Moderator: Jennissa Pressley-Burgin, LCSW-QS	4:15pm-5:00pm (2618) Accessibility and Air Travel Experiences Among Wheeled Mobility Device Users: Barriers by Device Type Speakers: Paige Matijasich, MD, Sangmi Park, PhD, OT Moderator: Bill Lawson	4:15pm-5:00pm (2620) Retinal Layers as Non-Invasive Biomarkers of Accelerated Brain Aging and Clinical Disability in Multiple Sclerosis Speaker: Anza Memon, MD, FAAN Moderator: Maureen Jennings, DPT	4:15pm-5:00pm (2622) Technology Ethics: Considerations for Veterans with ALS Using High-Tech Augmentative and Alternative Communication Speakers: Laura Mellon, MS, CCC-SLP, ATP Annette "Nicole" Askren, CScD, CCC-SLP Moderator: April Conway, NP
5:00pm - 6:30pm	Poster Viewing Event Center • Refreshments Provided			
5:15pm - 6:30pm	ALS System of Care Meeting Track 3: Bronze 1-4			

SUMMIT AGENDA

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

TIME	TRACK 1 PLATINUM/GOLD BALLROOM
7:00am - 8:00am	Continental Breakfast Grand Ballroom Foyer
8:00am - 8:15am	Opening Remarks Lindsay Perlman, MPH, <i>Director Research and Education, Paralyzed Veterans of America</i>
8:15am - 9:30am	John M. Whitaker Memorial Lecture (2623) A Brave New World: Partnering with patients to promote health and wellness in the age of technology Aaron Turner, PhD <i>Professor, Director, Rehabilitation Psychology, VA Puget Sound Health Care System</i>
9:30am - 10:30am	Coffee Break Event Center
9:30am - 5:00pm	Registration Grand Ballroom Foyer



SUMMIT AGENDA

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

TIME	TRACK 1 PLATINUM/GOLD BALLROOM	TRACK 2 SILVER BALLROOM	TRACK 3 BRONZE 1-4	TRACK 4 PALACE 3-5
10:30am - 12:00pm	10:30am-12:00pm (2624) Improving Health Equity Through Mobility Screening: Lessons from VA Mobility Screening And Solutions Tool Adaptation Speakers: Bridget A. Cotner, PhD, Christine Melillo, PhD, RN, Margaret Arnold, PT Moderator: Kenneth Lee, MD	10:30am-12:00pm (2625) Standing with Confidence: Aligning Evidence Based Frameworks to Optimize Standing Related Complex Rehab Technology Selection Speakers: Kristen Cezat PT, DPT, ATP/SMS Douglas Eck, PT, DPT, NCS, MHI, ATP Moderator: Kimberley Monden, PhD	10:30am-11:15am (2626) Introduction and Update on the Multiple Sclerosis Prodrome Speakers: Mitchell Wallin, MD, MPH John Rinker, MD Moderator: Juliet Pierce, RN	10:30am-11:15am (2628) Navigating Complex Conversations-A Workshop for Professionals Speakers: Mandi Bailey, BS Jill Brattain, BS Beth Whittington, MD Melinda Kavanaugh, PhD, LCSW Moderator: Sarah Brindle, PhD
			11:15am-12:00pm (2627) Non-MS Patients in MS Practice – Rare Neuro Disorders- Case Discussions Speaker: Anza Memon, MD, FAAN Moderator: Juliet Pierce, RN	11:15am-12:00pm (2629) Moral distress and ethical responses after a patient stops eating desiring to die Speakers: Maggi A Budd, PhD, MPH, HEC-C Kelly Skinner, DNP, APRN, ANP-C Moderator: Sarah Brindle, PhD
12:00pm - 1:30pm	Lunch & Expo Event Center			
12:00pm - 12:45pm	Sponsor Symposium Track 3: Bronze 1-4 Maxim Healthcare (see pg 43) • Lunch Provided in the Room			
12:15pm - 1:00pm	Sponsor Symposium Track 2: Silver Ballroom Biogen (see pg 43) • Lunch Provided in the Room			

SUMMIT AGENDA

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

TIME	TRACK 1 PLATINUM/GOLD BALLROOM	TRACK 2 SILVER BALLROOM	TRACK 3 BRONZE 1-4	TRACK 4 PALACE 3-5
1:30pm - 3:00pm	1:30pm-2:15pm (2630) Neurogenic Lower Urinary Tract Dysfunction: Cutting Edge Care and Guidelines Update Speaker: Michael Kennelly, MD Moderator: Lindsay Perlman, MPH	1:30pm-2:15pm (2632) Integrated Functional Electrical Stimulation (FES): Theory and Practical Applications for Clinic and Home Speakers: Colleen Connaughton, PT, DPT Moderator: Lauryn Wasil, OTR/L, AIT	1:30pm-2:15pm (2634) Beyond the Patient: Elevating Caregiver Well-Being in MS Care Systems Speakers: Bethany Ferguson, LCSW-C Alicia Sloan, LICSW Moderator: Juliet Pierce, RN	1:30pm-1:45pm (2636) Estimating the Number of Veterans with ALS: Data from the National ALS Registry Speaker: Paul Mehta, MD 1:45pm-2:00pm (2637) Diagnostic differences between military veterans and non-veterans: data from the United States National ALS Registry Speaker: Jaime Raymond, MPH
	2:15pm-3:00pm (2631) Optimizing Neurogenic Bowel Management using Transanal Irrigation: Specialized Home Educational Program with Case-Based Insights Speakers: Tommy Yu, MD Marsha Marquez, RN Moderator: Lindsay Perlman, MPH	2:15pm-3:00pm (2633) Low-Intensity Blood Flow Restriction to Improve Upper Limb Strength After Spinal Cord Injury Speaker: Babak Shadgan, MD, MSc Sports Med, PhD Moderator: Lauryn Wasil, OTR/L, AIT	2:15pm-3:00pm (2635) Children and youth as caregivers: Support and Interventions for Hidden Veteran Caregivers across Illness and Injury Speaker: Melinda Kavanaugh, MSW, PhD Moderator: Juliet Pierce, RN	2:00pm-2:15pm (2638) Obesity-Associated Leptin Resistance Exacerbates Neuroinflammation in Experimental Autoimmune Encephalomyelitis Speaker: Naghme Abbasi Kasbi, MD 2:15pm-3:00pm (2643) Medication Use Patterns in Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Admissions and the Impact of SCI-SAFE Mnemonic Speakers: Kristen Myers, PharmD, BCPS Daniel McPartlin, PA Moderator: Huned Patwa, MD
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Coffee Break Event Center			

SUMMIT AGENDA

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

TIME	TRACK 1 PLATINUM/GOLD BALLROOM	TRACK 2 SILVER BALLROOM	TRACK 3 BRONZE 1-4	TRACK 4 PALACE 3-5
3:30pm - 5:00pm	3:30pm-3:45pm (2640) Effects of older age and sex on axonal survival within the spinal cord after SCI Speaker: Julio C Furlan, MB, LLB, MBA, PhD, MSc, FRCPC, FAAN, FASIA	3:30pm-4:15pm (2644) Food for Thought: Self-feeding with Limited Upper Extremity Strength Speaker: Jennifer Lynn, OTR Moderator: Deirda Singleton, NP	3:30pm-5:00pm (2646) When Multiple Sclerosis Is Something Else: Recognizing MS Mimics in Veterans Speakers: Stacey Clardy, MD, PhD Tammy Smith, MD, PhD Ka-Ho Wong, MBA Moderator: Jennissa Pressley-Burgin, LCSW-QS	3:30pm-4:15pm (2647) Interdisciplinary Assistive Technology Teams: Maximizing Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Satisfaction for Veterans Living with ALS Speakers: Laura Mellon, MS, CCC-SLP, ATP Kaila Ott, MS, ATP, RET Moderator: Jacob Herzog, RN
	3:45pm-4:00pm (2641) Increased galectin-3 expression in muscle with heterotopic ossification following spinal cord injury Speaker: Chan Gao, MD, PhD 4:00pm-4:15pm (2642) Cognitive testing among people with spinal cord injury: accommodation solutions and implementation concerns Speaker: Manrui Zhang, PhD, MPH, MSW 4:15pm-5:00pm (2639) Closing the Gap: Hospital-in-Home Transitional Program for High-Risk Discharges in Veterans with SCI/D Speakers: Kaila Yeste, DO Marsha Marquez, MSN-ED, RN Moderator: Kenneth Lee, MD	4:15pm-5:00pm (2645) Wound Healing Reimagined: Development of a Novel Pressure Relief Surface and Evaluation by Veteran Users Speakers: Owen Flaugh, MS, Shantanu Satpute, PhD Moderator: Deirda Singleton, NP		4:15pm-5:00pm (2648) ALS Untangled Speakers: Ashley Lee, MS Richard Bedlack, MD, PhD, MS Moderator: Jacob Herzog, RN

SUMMIT AGENDA

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

TIME	EVENT
5:00pm - 6:30pm	Poster Viewing (Cocktail Hour–Cash Bar) Grand Ballroom Foyer
5:15pm - 6:15pm	VA SCI Staff Meeting Track 1: Platinum/Gold Ballroom
6:30pm - 8:30pm	PVA Healthcare Appreciation Reception Skyview 5/6 on 26th Floor

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

TIME	TRACK 1 PLATINUM/GOLD BALLROOM	TRACK 2 SILVER BALLROOM	TRACK 3 BRONZE 1-4	TRACK 4 PALACE 3-5
7:00am - 8:00am	Continental Breakfast Grand Ballroom Foyer			
8:00am - 8:15am	Welcome Remarks Kenneth Lee, MD, <i>Program Chair</i>			
8:15am - 9:00am	PVA Clinical Excellence Awards			
9:00am - 10:00am	(2649) Keynote Address Compassionate Care of the Veteran with ALS: the Role of Primary and Specialty Palliative Care Jerome Kurent, MD, MPH <i>Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Affairs Medical Center</i>			
10:00am - 2:00pm	Registration Grand Ballroom Foyer			
10:00am - 10:30am	Coffee Break Grand Ballroom Foyer			



SUMMIT AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

TIME	TRACK 1 PLATINUM/GOLD BALLROOM	TRACK 2 SILVER BALLROOM	TRACK 3 BRONZE 1-4	TRACK 4 PALACE 3-5
10:30am - 12:00pm	10:30am-12:00pm (2650) Harmonizing SCI, MS and VHA Registries for Cross-System Insights on SCI Characteristics and Outcomes Speakers: Yuying Chen, MD, PhD Jennifer Sippel, PhD Moderator: Lindsay Perlman, MPH	10:30am-11:15am (2651) Strength in Planning: Strategies to Achieve Financial Wellness for Veterans with Life-Altering Disabilities Speakers: Genia Hachenberg, MS, CRC Danielle Hetu, MS, CRC, CWIC, VET-C Mary McDirmid, ChSNC, ChFC Eric Ochmanek, BA Moderator: Bill Lawson	10:30am-11:15am (2653) Beyond the Basics: the Role of Exercise in Multiple Sclerosis Management Speakers: Lindsey Wooliscroft, MD, MSC, MCR Mark Manago, PT, PhD Moderator: Jennifer Massey	10:30am-12:00pm (2655) National Tele- ALS Clinic: Leveraging Telehealth to provide ALS Care to rural Veterans Speakers: Carrie Henry, LCSW Korren Rappisi, RRT Beth Whittington, MD Caitlin McKnight, M.Ed CCC-SLP, BC-ANCDS Cassandra Huggar, PharmD Moderator: Jacob Herzog, RN
		11:15am-12:00pm (2652) Restoring Purpose on the Water: Maritime-Based Community Programs Advancing Veteran Independence and Inclusion Speaker: Terence Moran, PMP Moderator: Bill Lawson	11:15am-12:00pm (2654) The Brain-Health Clinic to Prevent Cardiovascular Comorbidities Affecting the Outcome of Veterans Multiple Sclerosis Speakers: Francesca Bagnato, MD, PhD Ernest Aucone, PhD Moderator: Jennifer Massey	
12:00pm - 1:30pm	Lunch Event Center			

SUMMIT AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

TIME	TRACK 1 PLATINUM/GOLD BALLROOM	TRACK 2 SILVER BALLROOM	TRACK 3 BRONZE 1-4	TRACK 4 PALACE 3-5
1:30pm - 3:00pm	1:30pm-2:15pm (2656) Clinician Perspectives: Interdisciplinary Approaches for Effective Wheelchair Provision Speakers: Juli Harrison, OTD, OTR/L, ATP Rachel Hibbs, DPT, NCS, ATP/SMS Moderator: Kenneth Lee, MD	1:30pm-3:00pm (2658) Closing the Post-Discharge Follow-Up Gap in Neurological Conditions Speaker: Abigail Ruppel, PT, DPT, NCS Moderator: Lauryn Wasil, OTR/L, AIT	1:30-3:00pm (2659) Lessons from failed therapeutic trials in multiple sclerosis Speakers: John Rinker, MD Clara Wan, MD, MPH F Benesh, MD Moderator: Ryan Madjos, CRRN	1:30pm-2:15pm (2660) Navigating Interdisciplinary Care: A Case Study on Formation of MS and ALS Interdisciplinary Teams Speakers: Northern California Health Care System ALS and MS Interdisciplinary Teams Moderator: Jennifer Massey
	2:15pm-3:00pm (2657) The importance of support groups for persons with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and Spinal Cord Injury Speakers: Catherine Wilson, PsyD, ABPP Martin Forchheimer, MPP Moderator: Kenneth Lee, MD			2:15pm-3:00pm (2661) Strengthening, Spreading, and Sustaining Age-Friendly SCI care Speaker: Sunil Sabharwal, MD Moderator: Jennifer Massey



HEALTHCARE
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Results continued

Single

Introduction

Immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs) are promising therapies for cancer treatment and understanding their mechanisms of action and adverse events is crucial for optimizing their use and managing potential risks.

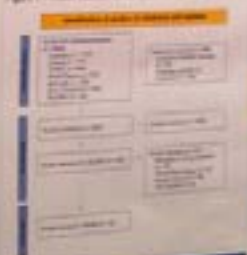
Objectives

1. To review the literature on the frequency, consequences and outcomes of treatment of ICIs in clinical practice.
2. To synthesize current evidence and identify key knowledge gaps.

Methods

- This systematic review was registered in PROSPERO (CRD42023038888) and conducted in accordance with the PRISMA guidelines (Figure 1).
- The search focused on two key concepts: ICIs and their outcomes, as well as adverse events, in combination with various search strategies. Searches were conducted in Medline, Embase, and Scopus from January to July 2023.

Figure 1: PRISMA flowchart for the systematic review



Discussion

1. ICIs are associated with a high frequency of adverse events, particularly in the respiratory, gastrointestinal, and dermatological systems.
2. The severity of adverse events varies, with some patients experiencing mild symptoms and others requiring hospitalization or discontinuation of treatment.
3. The management of adverse events involves a multidisciplinary approach, including close monitoring, supportive care, and the use of corticosteroids and other immunosuppressive agents.

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Results

Of the 1,000 records included in the final synthesis, 500 records were identified through database searches, and 500 records were identified through references.

The most common adverse events reported in the literature were respiratory (30%), gastrointestinal (25%), and dermatological (20%).

The severity of adverse events was categorized as mild (50%), moderate (30%), and severe (20%).

The management of adverse events involved the use of corticosteroids (50%), immunosuppressive agents (30%), and supportive care (20%).

The overall frequency of adverse events was 10%.

The overall severity of adverse events was 15%.

The overall management of adverse events was 10%.

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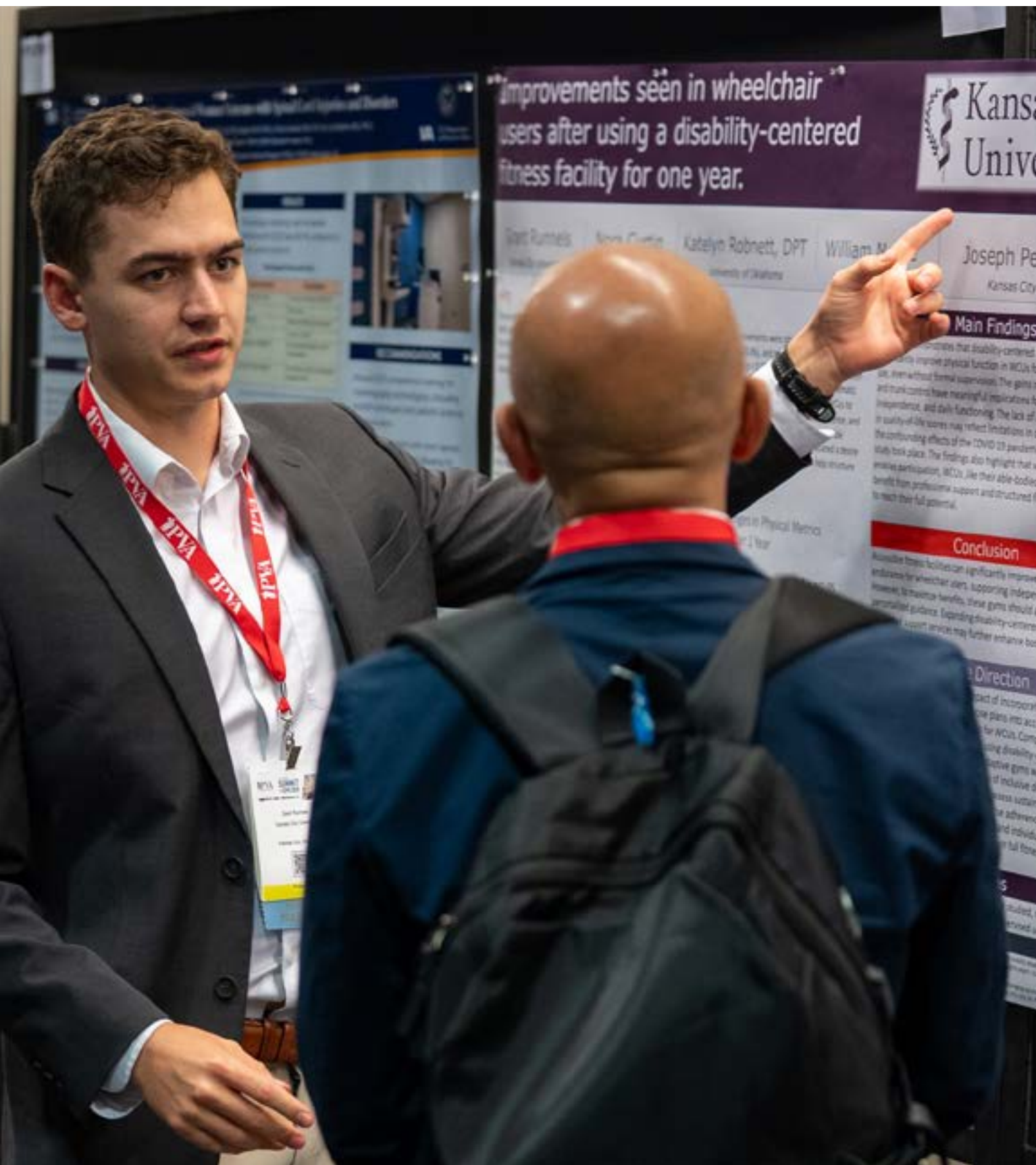
The overall frequency of adverse events was 10%.

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The overall management of adverse events was 10%.

The overall frequency of adverse events was 10%.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS



POSTER PRESENTATIONS



P2601: Implementing a Dedicated ALS Home Care RN-MD Team With Embedded Support Systems

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P2602: Feasibility of Personalized VR Visualization for Home Modification Services for People With Multiple Sclerosis

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P2604: Utility of the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS) in ALS

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P2605: Volitional Gait Speed Modulation After Spinal Cord Injury Using Feedforward Stimulation

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P2606: Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, and Mixed Reality in Neurorehabilitation: What Clinicians Need to Know

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P2607: Renacidin decreases the frequency of catheter associated urinary tract infections in neurogenic bladder.

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P2608: Clinical Decision-Making in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Rehabilitation: A Physical Therapy Practice Pattern Survey

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P2610: Trends in Spinal Cord Injury Long-Term Survival from 1980 to 2025

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P2611: Bridging the Gap: Operationalizing the PVA Bone Health Guidelines through Health Literacy and Community Engagement

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P2612: Can a home-based sleep test be used to diagnose sleep apnea in individuals with SCI?

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P2613: Prototype Design and Focus Group Evaluation of a Kirigami-Inspired Hybrid Airport Transport and Aisle Wheelchair

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P2614: Shifting Gears: Exploring Electrically Stimulated Cycling Training and Feasibility for Overground Transition after Paralysis

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P2615: Influence of Prompts on AI Guidance for SCI Patients and Caregivers: Pilot Study

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POSTER PRESENTATIONS



P2616: Pairing Transcutaneous Spinal Cord Stimulation with Overground Exoskeleton Walking Alters Assistance-Dependent Neuromuscular Engagement: Case Study

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P2617: Transcutaneous Spinal Stimulation Combined With Treadmill Training in Multiple Sclerosis: A Case Study

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P2618: The Effect of Glove Material on Handrim Propulsion in Wheelchair Racers: An Exploratory Study

Yukina Ota, MS
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
yukinao2@illinois.edu

P2619: Innovative approach to interdisciplinary process improvement project enhances team collaboration and Veteran-centric care in SCI/D population

Roni Pitts, OTR/L, OTD
Veterans Health Administration - Boston Healthcare System
roni.pitts@va.gov

P2620: Improving Air Travel for Mobility Device Users: Modifiable Human Factors as Barriers to Flying

Jason Raad, PhD
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
jhr40@pitt.edu

P2621: Advancing Care Pathways for Veterans Living with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)

Daniell Ruth, MBA, MSN, RN
Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center
daniellruth@yahoo.com

P2622: Identifying the role of physician practice focus and practice location on access to SCI care

Sunil Sabharwal, MD
VA Boston Health Care System/ Harvard Medical School
sunil.sabharwal@va.gov

P2623: Vedolizumab Exposure and the Prevalence of Multiple Sclerosis in Inflammatory Bowel Disease: A Large Real-World Analysis

Afsaneh Shirani, MD, MSCI
Saint Luke's Marion Bloch Neuroscience Institute, and University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine
ashirani@gmail.com

P2624: Substance and polysubstance use in those with spinal cord injury: A descriptive analysis

Jo Ann Shoup, PhD
Kaiser Permanente Colorado
jasst109@comcast.net



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Research & Education

2026 Research Foundation Grant Recipients

These six grantees are helping advance SCI/D care for veterans and people with disabilities in 2026—and 2027 grant applications are **NOW OPEN**.



Dr. Katherine Mifflin
Ohio State University



Dr. Yuying Chen
University of Alabama
at Birmingham



Dr. Brooks Wingo
University of Alabama
at Birmingham



Dr. Marc Weisskopf
Harvard University



Dr. Shantanu Satpute
University of Pittsburgh



Dr. Aravind Nehrujee
Shirley Ryan AbilityLab

Each year it opens in April and closes in July;
awards are notified in November and project begins January 1



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Research & Education

2026 Education Foundation Grant Recipients



Binhai Zheng

UC San Diego



Mark Manago

University of Colorado



Jeanne Zanca

Kessler Foundation



Jaewon Kang

Colorado State University



Gabriela Ocampo

NASCIC



Rachel Hibbs

University of Pittsburgh



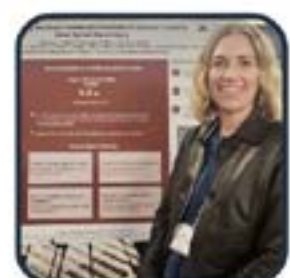
John Sherman

Denver Adaptive Divers



Quang Zhang

University of Alabama



Kimberley Monden

University of Minnesota

Each year it opens in September and closes in December;
awards are notified in April and project begins June 1

SPONSOR SYMPOSIUMS

MONDAY, AUGUST 31

First Nation Group

12:00pm, Track 3

The Risks of Standing Still: Practical Strategies to Improve Veteran Mobility While Protecting Caregivers

Speaker:

Andy Rich, MS, OTR/L, CSPHP, Clinical Solutions Manager, First Nation Group featuring Arjo

Onward Medical

12:15pm, Track 2

ARC-EX for Hand Strength and Sensation After Cervical SCI: A Veteran's Experience from Clinic to Home Access

Speakers:

Ismael Baca, Veteran, Albuquerque VA

ONWARD Medical Representative



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Maxim Healthcare

12:00pm, Track 3

In Home Private Duty Nursing for Veterans

Speakers:

Jason Passabet, Regional Director – Military and Federal Homecare, Maxim Healthcare

Leah Darling, LCSW, ALS Social Worker and ALS Clinic Coordinator at the Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center

Elizabeth Fassler, U.S. Army Veteran Living with ALS

Whitney Jordan, LCSW-QS, ALS Program Coordinator for the Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System

Kellie Lanier, Chief Clinical Officer, BSN, former certification in Rehabilitative Nursing

Ashley Lee, Former caregiver to her father, a Veteran who passed away from ALS

Biogen

12:15pm, Track 2

Evaluation and Management of Fatigue in Multiple Sclerosis

Speaker:

Babak Amerian-Williams, PharmD, Senior Medical Manager - Multiple Sclerosis, Biogen

CONTINUING EDUCATION

2026 PVA Healthcare Summit + Expo

Live Conference

August 30 – September 2, 2026

Las Vegas, NV

Continuing Education Information

This continuing education activity is provided by AffinityCE and the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA).

Target Audience

This activity provides continuing education credit for physicians, physician assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, psychologists, social workers, occupational therapists, physical therapists, certified rehabilitation counselors, speech language pathologists and registered dietitians. A statement of participation is available to other attendees.

Course Registration Link: <https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/newreg.php?eventid=861597>

CE and Disclosure Information: <https://www.summitpva.org/continuing-education>

CE and Disclosure Information for Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs):

<https://www.summitpva.org/continuing-education>

Learning Objectives

At the end of this activity, participants should be able to:

- Review the best practices management of SCI, MS, and ALS.
- List the clinical benefits of utilizing the VA healthcare system for life-long integrated MS care.
- Identify the administrative structure and oversight requirements of the VHA's artificial intelligence initiatives.
- Summarize current evidence on integrative strategies used in SCI care and identify gaps in how these approaches are incorporated into fellowship training.
- Recognize how caregiver report of depression relates to self-report of suicidal risk.
- Evaluate differences in the frequency and relative impact of reported pain points by mobility device type.
- Determine when to refer individuals with MS for comprehensive neuropsychological assessment or specialized intervention, using provided guidelines.
- Identify the importance of using clinical screening for polysubstance use in the SCI population in their own clinical practice.
- Define the economic benefits of using a home-based sleep screening test (HBSST) in the diagnosis of sleep apnea in individuals living with SCI.
- Discuss the potential of rehabilitative strategies for eye movement dysfunction in MS

ACCREDITATION STATEMENTS

Disclosures

AffinityCE staff, PVA staff, as well as planners and reviewers, have no relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose.

Faculty disclosures are provided for viewing prior to engagement with program content and stated prior to the start of each presentation.

Link to Faculty Disclosures: <https://www.summitpva.org/continuing-education>

Link to Faculty Disclosures - *Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs)*:

<https://www.summitpva.org/continuing-education>

Mitigation of Relevant Financial Relationships

AffinityCE adheres to the ACCME's Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education. Any individuals in a position to control the content of a CME activity, including faculty, planners, reviewers, or others, are required to disclose all financial relationships with ineligible companies.

All relevant financial relationships for anyone involved with the content of this activity have been mitigated prior to the release of this program.

Physicians



This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of AffinityCE and PVA. AffinityCE is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

AffinityCE designates this live activity for a maximum of 22 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Physician Assistants



This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of AffinityCE and PVA. AffinityCE is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

AffinityCE designates this live activity for a maximum of 22 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physician assistants should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

ACCREDITATION STATEMENTS

Nurse Practitioners



This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of AffinityCE and PVA. AffinityCE is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

AffinityCE designates this live activity for a maximum of 22 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Nurse practitioners should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Occupational Therapists



This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of AffinityCE and PVA. AffinityCE is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

AffinityCE designates this live activity for a maximum of 22 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Occupational Therapists should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Nurses



Continuing Nursing Education is provided for this program through the joint providership of AffinityCE and PVA. AffinityCE is accredited as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation (ANCC). This activity provides a maximum of 22 contact hours of continuing nursing education credit.

ACCREDITATION STATEMENTS

Criteria for Claiming CNE Credit: Participants must have registered and actively participated in the entire session for which credit is requested, attest to their attendance, complete the associated session evaluation and overall conference evaluation.

Physical Therapists



This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of AffinityCE and PVA. AffinityCE is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

AffinityCE designates this live activity for a maximum of 22 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physical Therapists should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Rehabilitation Counselors



This activity has been pre-approved by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) for up to 22 contact hours.

CRCC pre-approval number: 60008005339

Social Workers

This program is Approved by the National Association of Social Workers (Approval # 886551225-2860) for 19 continuing education contact hours.

Pharmacists



AffinityCE is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education as a provider of continuing pharmacy education. This knowledge-based activity will provide a maximum of 22 contact hours for participants completing all CPE sessions. UANs are provided for each session.

Participant CE records will be electronically communicated to CPE Monitor. There is no cost to participate in this activity.

Pharmacist Learning Objectives

- Describe the existing literature on substance use among those with spinal cord injury
- Describe the frequency of substance use overall within the SCI respondent sample
- Identify key sexual and reproductive health challenges experienced by women with SCI/D, including menstrual management, contraceptive care, and perimenopausal/menopausal transitions, across the rehabilitation continuum.

ACCREDITATION STATEMENTS

- Describe the current clinical practices and therapeutic interventions reported by PTs that treat pALS
- Apply evidence-based interventions (pharmacologic, procedural, and surgical) to optimize outcomes in patients with NLUTD, with attention to safety and efficacy.
- Review the ethical and administrative principles to guide safe patient handling decisions.
- Evaluate barriers to bone health management and identify strategies health care professionals can use to improve access to preventative care and patient outcomes.
- Review best practices in management of SCI, MS, and ALS.
- Identify patterns of healthcare utilization and symptom clusters that may signal individuals at high risk for MS or related syndrome.
- Describe the importance of effective interdisciplinary communication and role sharing.
- Explain the association between cognitive decline in MS and its impact on functional status, community engagement, and quality of life.

Dietitians



This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of AffinityCE and PVA. AffinityCE is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

AffinityCE designates this live activity for a maximum of 22 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Dietitians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Psychologists

AffinityCE is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. AffinityCE maintains responsibility for this program and its content. This activity provides up to 22 hours of CE Credit.

The instructional level of this activity is intermediate. The cost to participate in these CE sessions is included in the registration cost for the Program.

Psychologist Specific Learning Objectives

- Describe two different experiences of moral distress.
- Identify resiliency and trauma-informed skills to utilize in clinic-setting with caregivers.
- Identify differences between interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary care teams.
- Describe the utility of the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS) in ALS.
- Identify system redesign methods that support process improvement goals.
- Identify key gaps in early ALS care delivery that contribute to delayed intervention and crisis-driven acute care utilization among veterans.
- Identify patterns of healthcare utilization and symptom clusters that may signal individuals at high risk for MS or related syndrome.

ACCREDITATION STATEMENTS

- Describe the behavioral, emotional, and psychological experiences and needs of military and veteran connected young carers, including the impact of caregiving on development, education, and well-being.
- Identify different behavioral strategies to promote behavior change in MS.
- Recognize the role of the brain health clinic to help preventing MS progression.
- Discuss the behavioral and psychosocial implications of improved upper-extremity function, such as increased confidence, independence, and participation in daily activities, for individuals living with SCI.
- Discuss behavioral and psychosocial strategies such as motivational interviewing, resilience-building, and culturally responsive communication to enhance patient engagement and mental health after SCI.

Speech-Language Professionals



At the end of this activity, speech-language professionals (SLP) should be able to:

1. Define Cognitive Supported Learning (CSL) in the context of Spinal Cord Injury in Acute Inpatient Rehabilitation.
2. Define augmentative-alternative communication (AAC) as it applies to high-tech solutions for restoring communication participation in ALS.
3. Describe the key challenges that veterans with ALS face within current care pathway.
4. Describe the end-to-end workflow for creating personalized VR-based home modification visualizations, including image capture, 3D modeling, and interdisciplinary translation of recommendations.
5. Describe the development and purpose of the VA Mobility Screening and Solutions Tool (VA MSST) and its role in safe patient handling.
6. Differentiate between motorized and task-specific FES systems based on clinical indications, functional goals, and patient needs.
7. Describe the potential accommodation solutions associated with using NIH Toolbox among people with SCI.
8. Identify specific criteria for each type of power assist device to match with client characteristics.

ACCREDITATION STATEMENTS

9. Apply ethical and administrative principles to guide safe patient handling decisions.
10. Demonstrate effective communication strategies that incorporate patient-reported outcomes and shared decision-making to ensure that care is patient-centered.

Satisfactory Completion Requirement Statement

Participants must have registered and attended the entire length of the CE session. Participants must successfully complete the post-conference requisites which include session evaluation and record the anticipated changes in clinical practice because of participating in the program. Participants are also encouraged to participate in the 60–90-day post-activity outcomes survey which tracks the changes in practice that were implemented after participating in the CE program

Other Professionals

All other health care professionals completing this continuing education activity will be issued a statement of participation indicating the number of hours of continuing education credit. This may be used for professional education CE credit. Please consult your accrediting organization or licensing board for their acceptance of this CE activity.

Learning Accommodation and Accessibility Needs: Please notify conference staff at the time of registration for accessibility assistance.

Commercial Support

No commercial support was provided for this activity.

Participation Costs and Refund Policy

The cost to participate in these CE sessions is included in the registration cost for the program. and is not refundable.

How to Earn CE Credit

2026 Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) Healthcare Summit + Expo

Registration for the conference does not establish an account in the CE Center or automatically provide continuing education credit. You must sign into the CE Center site and evaluate the content of the activity to earn CE credit.

1. Go to pva.cds.affinityced.com.
2. Select the activity “2026 Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) Healthcare Summit + Expo.”
3. Enter an e-mail address and password to begin setting up your profile. Select “I Forgot My Password” if you need to reset the password you set up.
4. Verify, correct, or add your information.
5. Proceed to complete the evaluation for each session you attended and attest to your attendance.
6. After evaluating all attended sessions, you must complete the Overall Evaluation to download your CE certificate.

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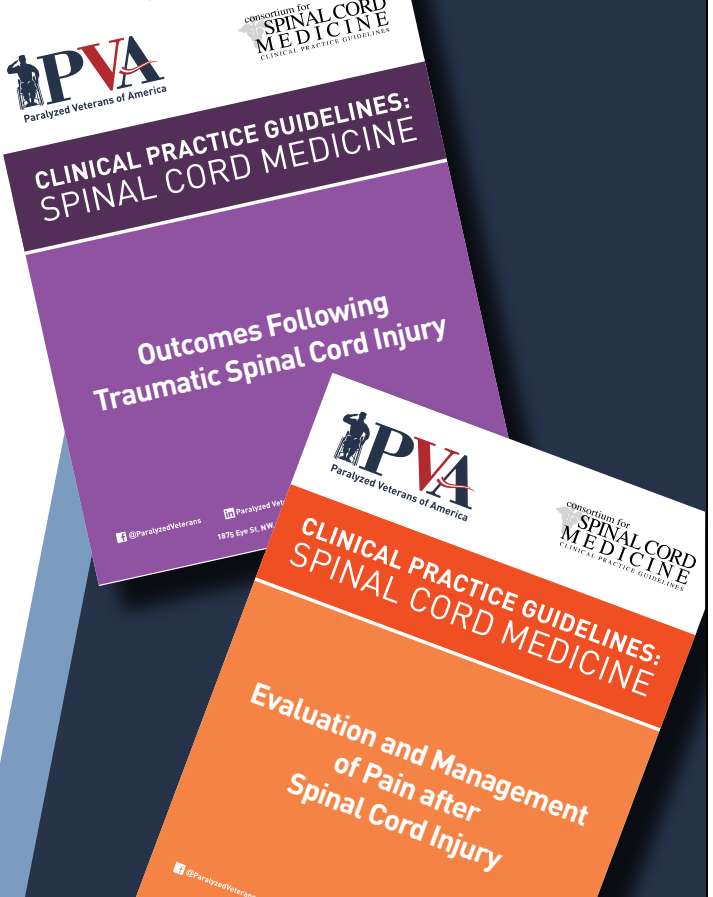
7. Upon completing your evaluations, you can download your CE certificate. Your CE record will also be stored here for later retrieval.
8. U.S. based Pharmacists will need to supply their Date of birth, and NABP e-Profile ID. Pharmacist CE records will be electronically communicated to CPE Monitor.
9. Speech Language Pathologist participants who have requested and consented to ASHA CE credit reporting must complete CE evaluations **no later than September 25, 2026**, to comply with ASHA policies related to reporting participants to the ASHA CE Registry. Questions about ASHA CEUs must be sent to cds_support+PVA@affinityced.com.
10. The Web site is open for completing your evaluation for 30 days after the event, until September 25, 2026.
11. After the Web site has closed, you can come back to the site at any time to download your certificate, but you will not be able to add any evaluations.

Please send any CME inquiries or customer service requests to cds_support+PVA@affinityced.com.

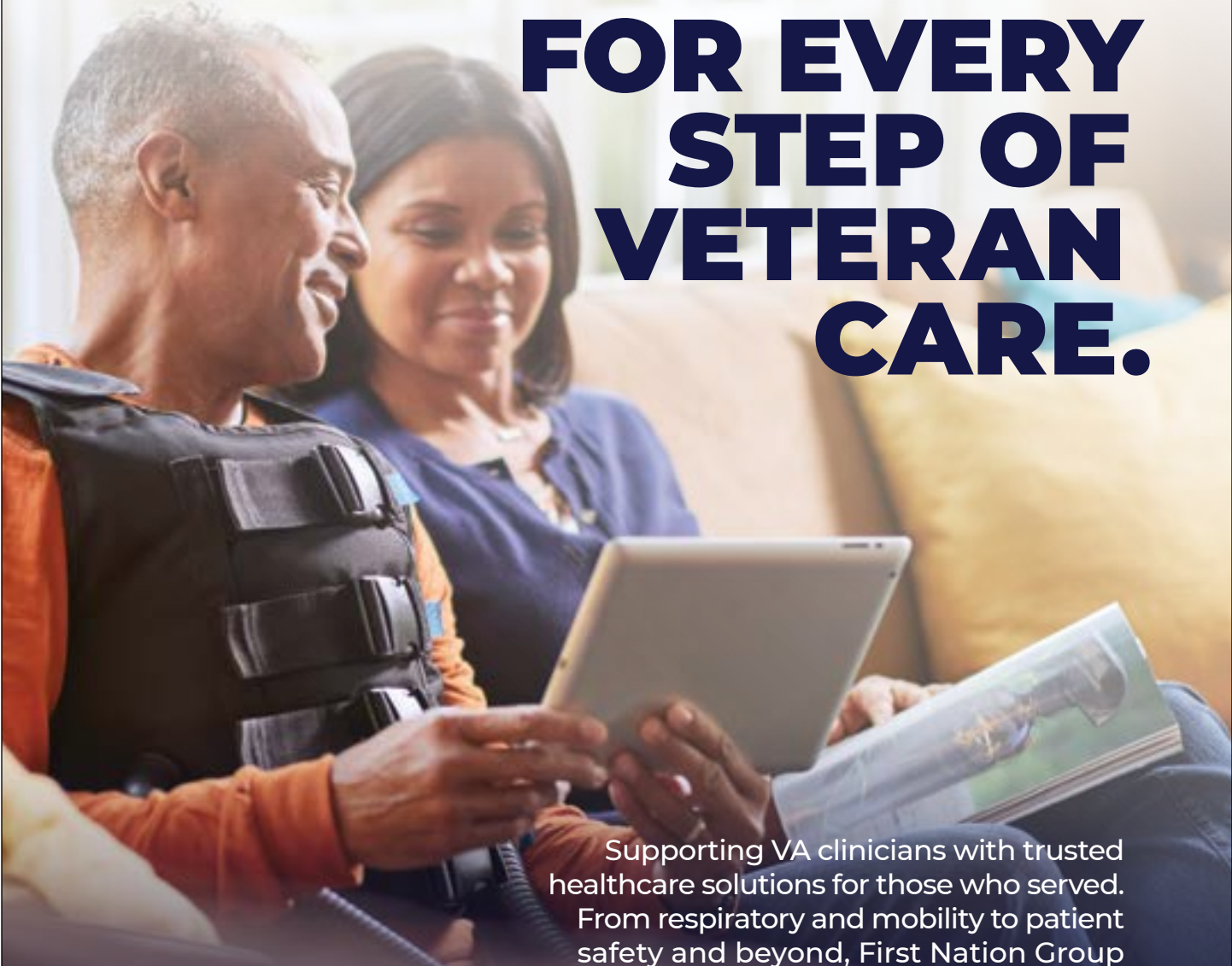


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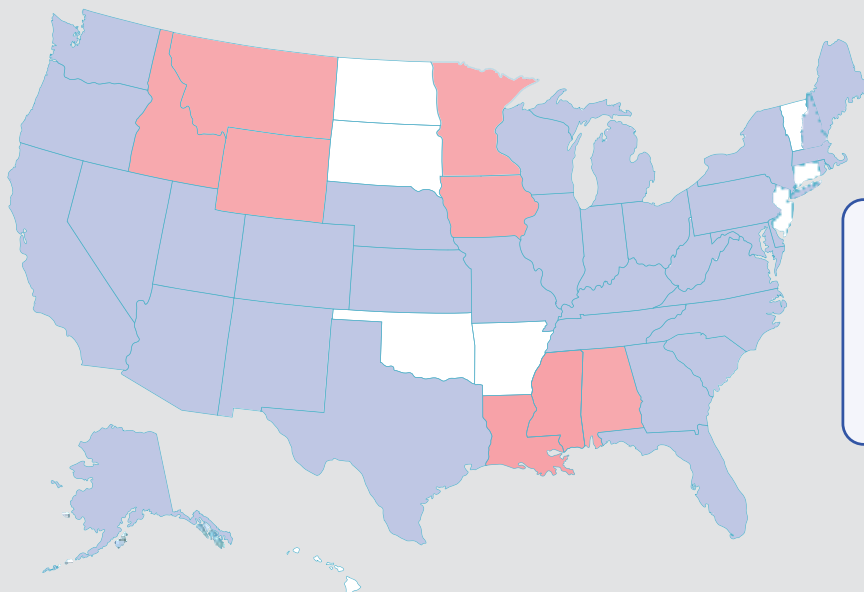
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Help shape the future of SCI/D care!

Are you a clinician working with individuals with spinal cord injury or disorder (SCI/D)? Visit us at the PVA Healthcare Summit + EXPO, Booth #625!

Paralyzed Veterans of America and RAND are teaming up to improve care for people living with SCI/D. We need your expertise to help identify strengths, challenges, and opportunities to improve SCI/D care delivery, care coordination, and innovative treatments.

Stop by booth #625 in the Expo Hall on August 31 (9 am to 6 pm) to learn more about the study and participate in a quick **30-minute interview**.

Your voice will help shape future research and recommendations to improve care for veterans and others with SCI/D.

Questions? Contact Dr. Alicia Locker (alocker@rand.org).



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